

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dwight Walker on March 15, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract:

The abstract has been changed to the following:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods for electrostatically applying a powder material to substrates are described. A plurality of platens (202) are provided, each arranged to hold a plurality of substrates such as solid dosage forms. Each platen is driven around an endless path and passes through a loading region (205) in which substrates are loaded onto the platens, a developing region (207) in which the powder material is applied to the substrates, a fusing region (209) in which the applied powder material is fused, and an unloading region (211) in which substrates are removed from the platens.--

In the claims:

In claim 82, line 7, after “path”, --wherein the applicator assembly comprises at least one applicator having a supply of powder material and charging means for electrostatically charging the powder material-- has been inserted.

Claim 83 has been cancelled.

In claim 84, line 1, "claim 83" has been changed to --claim 82--.

In claim 104, lines 3-4, “the upper platen” has been changed to --an upper platen--.

In claim 104, line 5, “the lower platen” has been changed to --a lower platen--.

In claim 109, line 2, “the upper platen” has been changed to --an upper platen--.

In claim 109, lines 2-3, “the lower platen” has been changed to --a lower platen--.

In claim 112, line 3, “the upper platen” has been changed to --an upper platen--.

In claim 112, line 4, “the lower platen” has been changed to --a lower platen--.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 82, 84-88, and 90-111 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of an apparatus for electrostatically applying a powder material to substrates, the apparatus comprising the combination of platens arranged to move along an endless path, each platen being arranged to hold substrates; means for driving the platens along the endless path; an applicator assembly for applying the powder material to the substrates, the applicator assembly being located on a part of the endless path wherein the applicator assembly comprise at least one applicator having a supply of powder material and means for electrostatically charging the powder material; and a transfer station for transferring the substrates between the platens.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura Edwards/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1713

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March 15, 2011